

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting

LOCATION

Special Olympics Building
3200 Mountain View Drive
Anchorage, Alaska
Teleconference

Meeting Date

June 25, 2014
2:00 p.m.

Attendees:

Ric Nelson, Chair
Art Delaune
Taylor Gregg
Karli Lopez
Lucy Odden
Dean Gates
Anna Attla
Amy Simpson

Staff:

Teresa Holt
Christie Reinhardt
Patrick Reinhart
Rich Sanders
Kristin Vandagriff

Prepared by: Sheila Garrant,
Peninsula Reporting

Call to Order – 2:00 p.m.
Roll Call

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIR

Ric Nelson welcomed the committee members. Lucy Odden reported the good news that she is going to California to the ASPE Conference. Patrick Reinhart reported the good news that he caught 29 salmon. Taylor Gregg reported that she is looking forward to her 10-year class reunion. Karli Lopez noted that Stone Soup's Annual Picnic is scheduled for Aug 1st at Kincaid Park from 1 to 3, and the Down Syndrome Buddy Walk is scheduled for August 2nd at Clark Middle School from 1 to 3.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF PAST MINUTES

Changes to the agenda were made as follows:

- Addition of a discussion regarding MMIS to Old Business
- Addition of a vote of budget requests to Old Business
- Correction of E&T Committee next meeting to August 19th
- Correction to agenda heading from 10:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the agenda as amended. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Art Delaune **MOVED** to approve the meeting minutes as written from the 2/26/14 and 4/9/14 meetings. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

CORRESPONDENCE

Teresa Holt reported that the Council submitted three letters of recommendation. One was for the HRSA grant for a Traumatic Implementation Grant to Senior & Disability Services to expand the capacity of the state and local systems to more adequately serve people with traumatic brain injury. The second was for Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to support the HUD Section 8 Supported Housing to increase the availability of accessible housing options and stimulate the development of a full housing option for people with disabilities and seniors. The third was a letter of support to the Maternal Family Child Health for a federal grant to start doing patient-centered medical home care for children

and youth with special healthcare needs to increase the number of people who are doing patient-centered medical home care by 20 percent.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ric Nelson reported that he attended the Trust meeting in May in Fairbanks where they had a discussion about the MMIS crisis. Ric recommended that as a Council they focus on this issue in the upcoming year.

Ric Nelson briefly spoke about the PCA reductions and would like some information as to why these reductions are taking place. He believes that as a Council, they should be made aware of what's going on and why there are PCA reductions across the board.

COUNCIL REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Dean Gates reported that there was not a lot of activity for the Legislative Committee in June. They have completed their priorities for last year. Patrick Reinhart reported that on the federal level, they did some presentations in April in Washington, D.C., and they are preparing a legislative briefing on those. The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is scheduled for August.

EMPLOYMENT & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Lucy Odden reported that the E&T Committee met June 17th and had a quorum so they were able to approve the last three month's meeting minutes. They also changed their meetings to the third Tuesday of every month from 1 to 2:30. At their last meeting, they reviewed and approved their FY15 draft work plan with the addition of detailing the staff assistance categories for each priority. They discussed the EEOC Advance Public Notice for Proposal Making, which is an invitation for public comment on how the federal agencies can amend their regulations to clarify the agency's obligation to be a model employer of people with disabilities. The committee will draft a letter in response to the seven questions that are being asked for public comment. The deadline is July 14th.

Lucy Odden reported that she attended the AIEI Advisory Board meeting on May 27th and 28th, and there was great feedback from stakeholders about future activities. The Trust Beneficiary Employment Stakeholder Meeting was held May 29th and 30th, and the Governor started the event off by signing the Employment First legislation into state law.

Lucy Odden reported that she sent a letter of appreciation to TSA and Alaska Airlines to thank them for hosting the Wings for Autism event, and she noted that they will more than likely have another similar event in October.

Lucy Odden reported that they had a pre-meeting celebration for the passage of the Employment First bill. They were happy to have community members attend as well as Representative Millett's staff.

The next meeting of the E&T Committee is scheduled for August 19th, 2014 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

HOUSING

Patrick Reinhart reported that he attended the Housing Trust Focus Area meeting, and they talked about forming smaller work groups to work on specific issues related to housing. The next statewide Homelessness Coalition meeting is tentatively scheduled for early October in Juneau.

Patrick Reinhart reported that there have been discussions with the Trust related to the \$50,000 Smart Home Technology to develop a plan to utilize that funding before it terms out.

Patrick Reinhart noted that he attended an AHFC workshop on fair housing to get the latest updates on what the regulations are and how they are being interpreted in the field. There was some discussion related to fair housing testing to test whether people with disabilities are being discriminated against in the housing markets. Other states have rigorous testing, but Alaska does not.

AUTISM AD HOC COMMITTEE

Teresa Holt reported that all of the Council's autism projects have fallen into

place, and there are only a few things that still need to be advocated for. The Council did not pick any autism priorities for the next year. Teresa has been talking with various entities that serve individuals with autism about another group taking the leadership and the Council working with them to transition the leadership.

There was a question regarding the Autism Insurance Act, and Teresa explained that the act in reality only covers about 10 percent of the people in Alaska. The next step is to widen that scope by working with self-insurers and Medicaid to provide the benefits of the insurance act.

HEALTH

Teresa Holt reported that regarding the Emergency Preparedness, 2,200 copies of the Get Ready! Toolkit have been distributed since the end of March. It has been wildly successful, and they have ordered 15,000 more toolkits. She noted that 450 SKIP Kits have been distributed and 5,000 more have been ordered. Those kits include items such as a space blanket, flashlight, and bandanas. The Council recommended inserting an explanation of what the items in the kit are used for.

Teresa Holt reported that they are working to finalize the strategic plan to promote the health of people with disabilities. There is a stakeholder summit planned for September to gather input on the plan.

Teresa Holt reported that accessible PE training is being provided for three more regional school districts this year, and there is also continued training being done with Hope Community Resources, and there was a training presented to a men's health group.

Teresa Holt reported that a mailing has gone out to all first responders and certified ambulances with the first responder's tip sheet on how to respond to people with mobility impairments, autism, cognitive disabilities, et cetera. There have been three sessions of training with various staff of the Anchorage Police Department that included videos of appropriate actions when responding to people with disabilities.

ASPEN PROJECT

Teresa Holt reported that ASPEN is winding down the FY14 work. All agencies in the FY14 community have signed MOAs, and they are going to continue to work with each other through CHD. There was a satisfaction survey sent out on June 5th, and respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with the activities as 0 to 5, 5 being very satisfied. The mean responses for each question are as follows:

Focus group	4.0
Needs assessment	4.0
Policy, procedure, and review	4.25
Strategic planning efforts	4.25
Technical assistance and training	4.0

Teresa Holt noted that the communities have requested additional training, which is a good sign, and that training will be provided before the end of the year. Teresa also noted the ASPEN is in the MHTAR budget for FY15, 16, and there is a request for FY17. There is an opportunity to apply for federal funding from the Office on Violence Against Women to do a project for the deaf community regarding accessibility to shelters, police, and services associated with domestic violence and sexual assault. The Council recommends having a meeting with various people in the deaf community to get input on the issues. The grant is due in January, but the planning for it will be forthcoming.

PEER POWER

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power is partnering with Amanda Cooper regarding public health awareness. They have an agreement to work together to educate medical providers about disabilities and how to work with people with disabilities.

Ric Nelson reported that Peer Power has submitted their paperwork to the IRS for their 501(c)(3) designation. The board is taking a summer break, but Ric and Tracy are working on planning for the activities for the next year. Ric noted that Peer Power plans to have t-shirts made with their logo on them.

Lucy Odden reported that she attended a board education workshop with Rider Consultants that was really good. Lucy is looking forward to working on job clubs and will be doing research on job clubs.

DD COMMITTEE

Art Delaune reported that the DD Committee met in June and reviewed their work plan. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding the Medicaid review of medications and how difficult is it to renew medications. They will continue to work on where that will fit into their priorities. There was some discussion as to the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee and what they will be working on this year. In addition to that, they had a meeting with SDS on the review of the eligibility for the DD Registry, and they discussed the history of how it started, how it got to where it is today, some of the things that need to be changed, and who is responsible for what activities. They plan to schedule another meeting.

Christie Reinhardt reported that the FASD work group is in contact with two SAFA chapters to get assistance on how to create a chapter in Alaska.

Patrick Reinhart noted that the comments regarding the regulations on the home and community-based waivers will be finalized and will be brought to the Ric Nelson and Art Delaune for review. Ric Nelson requested a copy be sent to Disability Law Center for review.

MEDICAID AD HOC COMMITTEE

Ric Nelson reported that the Medicaid Ad Hoc Committee will be getting back together next month to look at what they need to focus on for the next year. Patrick Reinhart reported that the State Plan amendment is one of the issues, and the Medicaid review issues will also be part of the ad hoc committee's work plan.

Patrick noted that there was a stakeholder's meeting regarding the regulations on durable medical equipment. One recommendation that came out of the commissioner's office was Medicaid equipment reuse and recycling as a new service that they can pay for and develop a rate setting structure. Patrick noted that it was good that they are thinking in that direction.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Taylor Gregg reported the next meeting is scheduled for June 26th, 2014 from 1:30 to 3. Taylor reported that the repeal of the HSGQE passed and the Safe Student Act passed.

Christie Reinhardt reported that at their next meeting they will be discussing the Governor's education omnibus bill and developing comments on the proposed regulations. Christie has also been talking to members of the Alaska Association of School Boards about helping craft a sample restraint and seclusion policy. Christie noted that the restraint and seclusion legislation has not been signed by the Governor yet.

EARLY INTERVENTION COMMITTEE

Karli Lopez reported that Amy Simpson brought forward the idea of asking the legislators to designate an early intervention month to bring awareness to early intervention. The committee will work on what an awareness plan would look like, possibly increasing Child Find screenings and doing outreach to pediatricians.

Karli Lopez reported that right now there is a new chair to the Alaska Infant Learning Professional Association (AILPA), Karli herself is a fairly new chair for EIC, and there's a new lead at the state level, so there is a shift in dynamics and everyone is trying to figure out exactly what role they each play in early intervention. The EIC is going to look at educating themselves on what the EIC's role is and look at some projects they have going forward.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Teresa Holt reported that Carrie Predeger has accepted a position at the Trust and her last day was Friday. She will be missed as she had been at the Council for over eight years. The Council has been interviewing for her position and has found a promising candidate.

As far as Council appointments, Teresa has been working with Boards and Commissions to fill those slots, and they will wait for Boards and Commissions to make their decisions.

Teresa Holt reported that a letter was sent to the Trust asking for a meeting between the Council and the Trustees, and they have received no response. Ric Nelson will follow up with the chair of the Trust, and Teresa will follow up with Jeff Jesse.

Teresa Holt reported that she and Ric Nelson continue to meet with Duane Mayes every other week. Teresa also reported the agenda items for the next meeting include defining the role of the chair, the ED, and looking at policies and procedures for the Council.

Teresa Holt stated that she has had some very enlightening meetings with Jessica from SDS about the present issues, including budget issues, and they have isolated where the discrepancies are coming from. They are beginning the process of identifying the codes that are problematic.

Teresa Holt reported that the Council was selected to do a presentation at the National Association for Councils on Developmental Disabilities Conference. Ric Nelson and Teresa will be doing a presentation on the way they make legislative acts, how they develop talking points, and how they manage training. Teresa noted that legislative work is often a side activity for DD Councils and not the main work.

Teresa Holt noted that one issue that was brought forward at the Employment Summit was the challenge to assure that there be a policy that says anytime money is spent or purchases made, that a contractor be used that is engaging in Employment First policies and practices. Teresa would like to have a discussion at the full Council meeting in October to discuss how a policy like that would work for the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

COUNCIL BUDGET

The Executive Committee reviewed the travel budget. The report as of June 17th is they are 76 percent through the budget, but overall Teresa Holt anticipates that they will be very close to on budget at the end of the fiscal year. Teresa noted that they will be over budget for travel for a variety of reasons, but mainly the cost of travel has increased from last year even

though they did the same trips. Teresa recommended that in the upcoming fiscal year, the Council keep a watchful eye on the travel budget and decide on how many people can attend which meetings according to costs, not necessarily how many people have been sent in the past. She noted that some travel is mandatory and some portions of travel are covered in specific grants. The committee members requested a list of mandatory travel and the funds used to cover costs.

MMIS DISCUSSION

Teresa Holt explained to the committee members the debacle known as the Medicaid Management Insurance System, where the State has contracted with Xerox to manage the Medicaid billing system. Essentially, when they brought the system online, there were 30 known defects that would cause errors in the system; to date, there are over 500 errors. This catastrophe is wreaking havoc for providers and any other entities that bill Medicaid. The Trust has offered to hire an independent contractor to look at data, and they have asked AADD to come up with what data they would like to see. Teresa recommended the Council keeps apprised of this issue.

UPDATE ON PURCHASE OF iPADS FOR COUNCIL

The update on the purchase of iPads for the Council was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS

REVIEW OF NEW FIVE-YEAR PLAN

Teresa Holt led the committee members through the recommendations brought forward for funding.

Amy Simpson **MOVED** to support the recommendation to make a request to the Trust for \$75,000 for autism workforce development capacity building to continue funding for FY16, after which they will be self-sustained. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**. (Note: Karli Lopez declared a conflict of interest and recused herself from voting)

Dean Gates **MOVED** to support the recommendation to make a request to the Trust for \$100,000 for SESA for the Autism Resource Center to

maintain their current level of staffing. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to support the recommendation for funding in the amount of \$80,000 for positive behavior and supports to the early childhood system through the Office of Children's Services. By a majority vote, the motion **PASSED (4/1)**. (Note: Karli Lopez and Art Delaune declared conflicts of interest and recused themselves from voting.)

Teresa Holt stated that on the Council's behalf, she will request that SESA and OCS provide a report of what their plan is regarding sustainability as MHTAAR funding will be requested with the understanding that there will be an exit plan for self-sustainability.

Lucy Odden **MOVED** to approve the capital budget. Hearing no objection, the motion **PASSED**. (Note: Art Delaune declared a conflict of interest and recused himself from the vote.)

Dean Gates **MOVED** that the Council supports the request for SDS one-time funding in an amount not to exceed \$500,000 for telemedicine. After a short discussion, Dean Gates **AMENDED** the motion to read that the Council supports Senior & Disabilities Services request up to \$500,000 for the telepractice one-time increment in the Department's budget and that if it does not get into the Department's budget, the Council will vote on it separately. Hearing no objections, the amended motion **PASSED**.

OCTOBER MEETING PLANNING

Dean Gates **MOVED** to approve the draft amendments to the State Plan for public comment. Hearing no objections, the motion **PASSED**.

Teresa Holt explained that the draft amended State Plan will be put out for public comment, and she encouraged the committee members to review the State Plan and make comments. The comment period will be open for 45 days.

UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Education Committee 6/26 from 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

- Developmental Disabilities Committee 7/2 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- Early Intervention Committee 7/9 from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
- Health and Disability Committee 7/9 from 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.
- Employment & Transportation Committee 8/19 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
- Executive Committee 8/27 from 1:00 - 3:00p.m.
- Legislative Committee –summer break
- Peer Power –summer break.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/CONFERENCES

- APSE conference in Long Beach, CA 7/1 - 7/4
- NACDD conference in D.C., 7/7 - 7/8
- ITACC meeting in D.C., 7/9
- PIE Grant meeting in Alexandria, VA, 7/7 - 7/11
- Trust Board meeting in Anchorage, 9/3 - 9/4
- Fall Council meeting in Anchorage, 10/1 - 10/3.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for July 23rd, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Dean Gates **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Hearing no objections the motion **PASSED** and the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.